

State Administration Committee
Monday, July 14, 2013

Testimony Opposed to
HB 30

Linda Gryczan
representing
League of Women Voters
Montana Women's Lobby

Years ago when I moved to Helena, I went down to the election office to register to vote, only to learn that registration was closed. I was told that I wouldn't be allowed to vote. This did not sit well with someone who had not missed an election since turning 18. If we had same day registration at that time, my vote would have counted.

I served as an election judge during the last election and spoke with a half dozen people who said they registered at the DMV, and were not on our voter list. This was one eight hour shift, in one precinct. This experience is echoed across Montana. Fortunately, with same day registration, their vote counted.

The Lewis and Clark County election office does an outstanding job. But things happen. Registration cards don't get transferred. The Helena IR reported that the election office received about 75 calls from people who did not receive their absentee ballots.¹

Same day registration allows people to vote, regardless of what time of year they moved to town.

Same day registration allows people to vote even if the DMV loses their registration.

Same day registration allows people to vote even if the post office does not deliver their absentee ballot.

We should not be making it more difficult for the eligible voters of Montana to participate in our democracy.

Please vote NO on HB 30.

¹ October 26, 2012 http://helenair.com/news/local/some-say-they-haven-t-received-absentee-ballots/article_f402560a-1f0a-11e2-8b7c-0019bb2963f4.html